

**METALLOPROTEASE ACTIVATION OF MYOSTATIN,
AND METHODS OF MODULATING MYOSTATIN ACTIVITY**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

It has been determined that metalloprotease cleavage of a myostatin pro peptide results in activation of a latent inactive myostatin to an active form. Accordingly, methods of identifying agents that modulate metalloprotease mediated activation of myostatin are provided, as are agents identified using such methods. Also provided are methods of modulating muscle growth in an organism by increasing or decreasing metalloprotease mediated cleavage of a myostatin pro peptide.